

NEW LEGISLATION

Lobbying 105.455: Members of the general assembly, statewide office holders, and any person holding office requiring appointment by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate shall not serve, act, or register as a lobbyist until six months after they leave such office.

Lobbying 105.465: Any person who registers as a lobbyist and also has a candidate committee must dissolve the candidate committee and disburse all committee funds by: Returning a contribution to the person or entity making the contribution, donating to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, or transferring funds to a political party committee.

New In 2017: Campaign Finance

All committees, except campaign committees for local ballot measures, will be required to:

- Register and electronically file reports with the MEC.
- Pay any late fees for the late filing of reports.

Find more information
[HERE.](#)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

In addition to the October Quarterly Report (due Oct 17th), the following reports may need to be [filed](#) for the Nov 8th General Election:

- **8 Day Before Election Report** only required if spent money (made contributions or expenditures (whether paid or incurred)) for that election
- **30 Day After Election Report** only required if:
 1. spent money (made contributions or expenditures (whether paid or incurred)) for that election; or,
 2. debt is more than \$1,000; and, if required, must be filed before taking office.

Also, candidates cannot take office until all campaign finance disclosure reports have been filed. If unsuccessful, and have more money on hand than debt, terminate the committee. If more debt than money on hand, can convert to [Debt Service Committee](#) (may only accept contributions to pay off debt, no other activity).

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ELECTION NEWS

ATTENTION: Officials Accepting Declarations of Candidacy:
Packets for 2017 Elections coming in October

- **Review the packet**
includes instruction letter, 2017 Guide to Ethics Law, PFD forms (AOB >\$1mil) & Notice to Candidate.
- **Review your Candidate Declaration form**
may include wording that candidate has no outstanding campaign finance reports due from prior elections.
- **Remember, §130.071 RSMo** prohibits candidates from taking office until all reports are filed.

! **Be sure to discard all old election materials!**

Our Mission:

The MEC serves the public interest by promoting and maintaining transparency, accountability, and compliance with campaign finance, lobbying, and conflict of interest laws. We educate and assist the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections by increasing awareness and understanding of the law. We investigate and enforce these laws consistently.

New Advisory Opinions

- **#2016.09.CF.001:** Any person who, on or after August 28, 2016, files an annual lobbyist registration form will be governed by the provisions of Section 130.097.2, RSMo, which prohibits the transferring of funds from committees under the lobbyist's control to any committee controlled by a candidate or public official.
- **#2016.09.CF.002:** A vehicle purchased by a campaign can be used for allowable uses for candidacy and duties of a holder of elective office. Because the vehicle is property of the committee, it is important to comply with all registration and insurance guidelines for committee property, and not personal property. If and when the committee terminates, it will be necessary to provide for and report the appropriate dissolution of committee property.



MEC raises money for charity

MEC staff engaged in a game of Penny Wars to raise money for the Mo State Employees Charitable Campaign. The staff of 22 raised **\$307.16** with a portion going to the winning team's charity of [CASA for Children](#) (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children), and the remainder going to the [Special Learning Center](#).

MEC Employee Spotlight

Sherry Hoback: Employee of the Quarter

Having served the Commission for 21 years, Sherry is a dedicated employee. In that time, she has assisted all areas of the office. The 2016 election year created an increase in the number of filings for PFD and committees formed. As a result, it has been a very busy year for MEC Business Services. Sherry provided assistance by processing PFD account requests, PFD filings, as well as training a new employee. She did all this while simultaneously fulfilling her own obligations related to lobbyist and campaign finance reporting. Sherry often receives compliments for the quality customer service she provides and is always looking for ways to improve the work we do here at the Commission. Well done, Sherry!



Political Subdivisions

Political subdivisions with an annual operating budget (AOB) over \$1 million will be able to electronically submit their list of required annual Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) filers to MEC (password information will be sent in November).

Upon logging in to the [Political Subdivision e-File system](#), both last year's annual filers and last year's candidates will be displayed. Carefully review each section, update each filer, and remove those no longer required to file. Reminder: if an annual filer held the position at any time in 2016, that person is still required to file for the time period served.

Each subdivision must notify those people whose names have been submitted. The MEC will also send notice to each filer in January. PFDs are due by May 1, 2017 (earlier if a candidate).

Q & A

- Q:** Can a campaign finance committee pay legal fees for post-election litigation or recounts?
- A:** No, §130.034 RSMo, defines allowable uses of Campaign Finance contributions.

For additional information related to payment of legal fees by a committee, refer to [Contribution Uses & Legal Fees](#) flyer and [Advisory Opinions](#) on our website.

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